

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04

COME-00 /077 W

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P 101701Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4586

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: ADDENDUM ON THATCHER VISIT: LATE NOTES

REF: LONDON 13704

FOR EUR/NE FOR WORREL FROM BYRD

1. MARGARET THATCHER HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS IN THE LAST  
FEW DAYS BEFORE HER DEPARTURE FOR US VISIT.

2. SHE GAVE SPECIAL INTERVIEW TO LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WHICH WAS APPARENTLY CARRIED IN US NEWS-  
PAPERS SEPTEMBER 6 AND 7. EXCERPTS APPEARED IN LONDON  
PAPERS, PARTICULARLY "DAILY TELEGRAPH" SEPTEMBER 8, IN-  
DICATING MRS. THATCHER HAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF  
ANGLO/AMERICAN RELATIONS AND HER INTENTION AS LEADER OF  
THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TO FOSTER  
AND DEVELOP THEM. SHE  
ALSO MADE A FEW COMMENTS AS TO THE ABILITIES OF BRITAIN  
AND ITS PEOPLE TO COPE WITH THE CONTINUING ECONOMIC PRO-  
BLEMS THE NATION FACES AND HER INTENTION TO CARRY THESE  
TIDINGS TO PRESIDENT FORD. ON INTERNATIONAL TOPICS MRS.  
THATCHER SAID THAT "COMMUNISTS MAY CHANGE THEIR EFFORTS  
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BUT NEVER THEIR AIMS AND HAVE ENORMOUS PATIENCE WHICH WE,

I.E., THE WEST, NEED ALONG WITH PERCEPTION IN UK DEFENSE POLICIES." SHE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND THE CASE OF TURKEY "WHICH HAS BEEN DEPRIVED OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID AGAINST WISHES OF THE ADMINISTRATION." (SEE SEPTTEL FOR FULL TEXT "TELEGRAPH" ARTICLE REPORTING AP INTERVIEW WHICH NOT AVAILABLE.)

3. MRS. THATCHER RECEIVED SOME BRIEF BUT DRAMATIC COVERAGE OF HER RECENT VISIT TO ROMANIA WITH FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF A PICTURED TETE-A-TETE WITH CEAUSESCU.

4. IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURNING FROM ROMANIA, MRS. THATCHER EMBARKED ON AN AMBITIOUS TRIP TO SCOTLAND, OPENLY WOOING SUPPORT OF VOTERS IN SCOTLAND AND VISITING FISHERIES AND OIL INSTALLATIONS. WHILE THERE SHE ANNOUNCED LONG-RUMORED REPLACEMENT OF GEORGE YOUNGER BY R. FAIRGRIEVE AS HEAD OF SCOTTISH TORY PARTY, NOT IN TERMS OF A DEMOTION FOR YOUNGER BUT TO RELIEVE HIM IN CONNECTION WITH HIS SHADOW CABINET RESPONSIBILITIES ON DEFENSE MATTERS.

5. BY COINCIDENCE OR INTENTION, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO DECIDE WHICH, MRS. THATCHER AND EDWARD HEATH WERE IN SCOTLAND BUT NOT IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME. BOTH THATCHER AND HEATH SPOKE ON ECONOMIC ISSUES IN SCOTLAND. MRS. THATCHER STRESSING NEED FOR REFORMS IN TAXATION (ONE OF HER SPECIALIZED CONCERNS), WHILE HEATH VEERED OFF IN QUESTIONING RELIABILITY OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS USED BY GOVERNMENT. BOTH WERE SPEAKING ON INFLATION AND ECONOMIC CRISES, BUT EMPHASES WERE MARKEDLY DIFFERENT. MRS. THATCHER ALSO STRESSED NEED TO PROTECT SMALL BUSINESS AND INCREASE INVESTMENT: SHE COMMITTED CONSERVATIVES TO "DE-NATIONALIZE" SCOTTISH OIL IF BUYERS AVAILABLE.

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4587

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 13959

6. AT SAME TIME MRS. THATCHER WAS ANNOUNCING HER TRIP TO THE US, HEATH ANNOUNCED HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE ON WORLD TRIP, INCLUDING VISIT TO AMERICA, JAPAN, ETC.

7. FURTHER EVIDENCE OF COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO, PERHAPS ENGENDERED MORE BY PRESS PROBING THAN BY PRINCIPALS CONCERNED, WAS ANNOUNCEMENT BY GROUP OF HEATH SUPPORTERS OF NEW ACTION GROUP ESTABLISHED TO INFLUENCE DIRECTIONS OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY. OFFICIAL TITLE OF THE GROUP IS "TORY REFORM GROUP." PRIME MOVERS APPEAR TO BE MPS NICHOLAS SCOTT AND DAVID KNOX (1975 GRANTEE) UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF FORMER SHADOW CHANCELLOR ROBERT CARR, FORMER SHADOW DEFENSE SPOKESMAN PETER WALKER, AND SHADOW HOME SECRETARY IAN GILMOUR. VARIETY OF TORY ORGANIZATIONS DESCRIBED AS AMALGAMATING IN THIS GROUP ARE PEST (PRESSURE GROUP FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TORYISM), MCLEOD GROUP, AND SOCIAL TORY ACTION GROUP (STAG).

8. SPONSORS MAINTAIN IN THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NEW ORGANIZATION HAS NO CONSPIRATORIAL PURPOSES BUT IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE NEW IMPETUS IN TORY THINKING. GROUP CONFIDENTIAL

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CALLS ITSELF "GENUINELY PROGRESSIVE" AND APPEARS DETERMINED TO EXERT RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON WHAT IT SEES AS DRIFT TO RIGHT OF PARTY UNDER MRS. THATCHER. REPORTEDLY, MRS. THATCHER HAS WELCOMED FORMATION OF GROUP AND WISHES IT WELL.

9. THESE DEVELOPMENTS, PLUS TORY CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WHICH CAUSED CANCELLATION OF MP AIREY NEAVE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE THATCHER TRIP, HAVE BOTH NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE BENEFITS. ON THE PLUS SIDE MRS. THATCHER IS AGAIN NEWS AND IN MOST CASES ON THE FRONT PAGE. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE HER POSITION AS LEADER

OF AN UNDIVIDED STRONG CONSERVATIVE PARTY HAS BEEN  
DAMAGED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF HEATH AND HIS SUPPORTERS.  
SOME OF THESE SAME PROBLEMS WILL SURFACE AGAIN IN THE  
UPCOMING BLACKPOOL CONFERENCE.

RICHARDSON

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